

Morrow describing the way his court operates:

Since its inception the court has found it necessary to assume the role of a buffer between people coming out of a stone-age way of life . . . and a fully industrialized intrusion of people from the sophisticated south. . . .

As a rule court is held in the community where the alleged offence occurred — Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik and Frobisher Bay are serviced by hearings at regular dates. . . . The court makes a spring circuit and a summer circuit to the more remote communities in the central and high Arctic and during these trips all types of court work are handled. . . .

There are no courthouses as such . . . although four communities boast courtrooms located in government buildings. In most cases court is held in a schoolroom, Hudson's Bay warehouse, community hall or whatever facility may be available. On occasion it has been held in the court plane — on one occasion I held an adoption hearing in the air as we flew from Cambridge Bay to Spence Bay. . . .

The top sculpture involves witchcraft and murder. Shooyook and Aiyaoot were charged with killing Aiyaoot's mother. Shooyook was found guilty and sentenced to two years, suspended. Aiyaoot was not. A complicated family tragedy is depicted in the centre. Kikkik was accused of killing her half-brother

after the half-brother killed her husband. She then set out across the barrens in search of food, leaving two children behind in the igloo. She was charged with murder and with abandoning the children, one of whom died. She was acquitted on all counts. The bottom group illustrates a civil case; who inherited Noah's property? The decision was that his marriage by native custom was valid and that the issue of that marriage got the estate.

It is usual to charter the plane, a DC 3 or Beechcraft or Aztec. Sometimes it will be equipped with skis, sometimes with floats. . . .

It may be helpful to describe an actual circuit. Two years ago an Eskimo living in the remote settlement of Spence Bay, at the bottom of the Boothia Peninsula, was charged with rape. While out on bail he got into trouble again and ended up facing a second charge of rape. By now the local populace, some two hundred people, were aroused against him. Accordingly arrangements were made to have the two jury trials at separate communities. To ensure at least some Eskimos on the jury the locations chosen were Cambridge Bay and Inuvik.

On Monday the court party took off from Yellowknife, getting into Cambridge Bay about noon. While we proceeded to choose the jury for the first trial, the court plane was sent to Spence Bay, 310 miles away, to collect the witnesses and complainants. Next day the first case was concluded, the defendant being convicted of common assault. (Incidentally the jury was our first all-

